

REMARKS

A. Generally

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesy of an in-person interview and telephone interviews in August and September.

Claims 1-7, 9-14, and 16-20 remain in this application. Claims 8 and 9 have been canceled. Claims 1-7, 9-14 and 16-20 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

B. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 1-16 and 18-20 of the present application have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,108,656 issued to Durst et al. (herein, *Durst*).

To establish a prima facie case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based on applicant's disclosure. MPEP. §2142 (8th Ed., Rev. 1). The references and the applicant's disclosure must be considered as a whole. MPEP §2142.02 (8th Ed., Rev. 1).

Durst is directed to a system and method for providing automated access to electronic information stored in a database in either a local or remote location. The system utilizes a machine-readable code printed on a document, referred to in the *Durst* disclosure as an "intelligent document." A machine-readable symbol comprises application launch information as well as file location information.

Claim 1 (as amended) of the present application recites the following limitations:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for the creation of an electronic container to conduct a transaction comprising:

- creating an electronic version of an object useful in conducting the transaction;
- creating information about the object;
- associating the information about the object with the object;

assigning a unique transaction identifier to the object to associate the object and the information about the object with the transaction; and

storing the object with other objects having the same unique transaction identifier.

The container of claim 1 (as amended) of the present application comprises an object and information about the object. The object and the information about the object are associated with a unique transaction identifier that associates the object with other objects having the same unique transaction identifier.

While *Durst* associates a file with a barcode that comprises a URL for a file, *Durst* does not teach or disclose creating information about the object and associating that information and the object with a unique identifier as recited in claim 1 (as amended). Additionally, *Durst* does not teach or disclose assigning a unique transaction identifier to the object and storing the object with other objects having the same unique transaction identifier as recited in claim 1 (as amended).

The *Durst* model allows a file to be retrieved from a server over a network. The “intelligent document” of *Durst* does not, however, comprise the file or other files related to the file by a unique transaction identifier. Unlike claim 1 (as amended) of the present application, the “intelligent document” of *Durst* does not provide information about objects in the *Durst* intelligent document. It would not have been obvious to modify *Durst* to provide these elements of the “container” as that term is used in the present application.

Applicant respectfully submits Claim 1 (as amended) and claims 2-6 that depend from claim 1 (as amended) are patentable over *Durst*.

Claim 7 (as amended) recites the limitations, “a workstation for inputting information about the object,” and “a container creator adapted for associating the information about the object with the object and associating the object with other objects and for associating the object with other objects each having the same unique transaction identifier.” These limitations are not taught or disclosed by *Durst*. Applicant submits that claim 7 (as amended) and claims 9-12 that depend from claim 1 (as amended) are allowable over *Durst*.

Claim 13, as amended, claims a method for managing workflow within an organization. Claim 13 (as amended) recites the limitation, “receiving an electronic container comprising an

object and information about the object, wherein the object is associated with a unique transaction identifier and wherein the electronic container comprises objects having the same unique transaction identifier.” These limitations are not taught or described by *Durst*. Additionally, the method of Claim 13 (as amended) provides access to the object for routing and processing after receipt of the electronic container. While *Durst* provides for retrieval of a file using a URL, the URL may be acquired by means other than the *Durst* object. Thus, unlike the method taught by claim 13 (as amended) of the present application, access to the *Durst* file is determined by possession of the *Durst* URL, not the *Durst* intelligent document.

Claim 13 further recites, “extracting routing information associated with the object from the information about the object, routing the object to a recipient designated in the routing information for processing the object, and receiving from the designated recipient a processed object.” In *Durst*, the document is retrieved by the recipient of the *Durst* intelligent document. Processing of the document by a party that is not the recipient of the *Durst* intelligent document is not described by *Durst* nor is provision made for returning the document to the recipient of the *Durst* intelligent document if passed to a non-recipient.

Applicant submits that claim 13 (as amended) and claims 14 and 16-20 that depend from claim 13 are allowable over *Durst*.

Claim 17 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,108,656 issued to *Durst* and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,215,992 issued to Howell et al. (herein, *Howell*).

Claim 17 (as amended), which depends from independent claim 13 (as amended) through dependent claim 16 (as amended), recites the limitation “wherein unique index information about the object comprises information indicative of a field value, a field name, a field type, and a length value.” The examiner, citing **Figure 2**, found that *Durst* disclosed a field value, a field type, and a checksum. However, the field labels and values depicted in **Figure 2** of *Durst* are not unique index information relating to an object. Rather, the field format in *Durst* is structured so as to inform the encryption processing of the obfuscating function (60) where to find the data (fields 1-3) and where to find the encryption data (fields 4-6). These field labels and values do not provide unique index information about the object as described in the present invention. For

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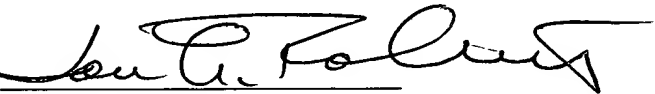
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these reason, Applicant submits that claim 17, as amended, is not obvious in light of *Durst* in further in view of *Howell*.

C. Conclusion.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the current rejection of the claims now pending in this application in view of the above amendments, remarks and arguments. Should any further questions arise concerning this application or in the event the above amendments do not place the application in condition for allowance, applicant respectfully requests a telephone interview. Attorney for the applicant may be reached at the number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,

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